

February 11, 1969

Industrial Water--Deep Disposal Well
Wausau Mill Paper Company
Erie, Erie County

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Through: Director, Division of
Water Quality

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We have reviewed the letter of January 20, 1969, from Richard W. Brown, Assistant Vice President, Director of Research, Wausau Mill Paper Company, concerning deep disposal well #2.

The information supplied in Dr. Brown's letter concerning deep disposal well #2 is satisfactory. Dr. Brown notes that deep disposal well #1 does not have sufficient pumping capacity to handle the total waste volume, but that "the existing holding tanks should be enough to avoid any discharge to the lake". Am I correct in assuming that Dr. Brown indicates that due to any well failure there will still be absolutely no discharge to the lake?

Dr. Brown indicates on the second page of his letter that "the fiberglass injection tubing used on wells #1 and #3 was selected because in five years continuous service it had proved noncorrosive ...". Use of fiberglass injection tubing has been unsatisfactory in other deep wells because of the high injection pressures and high tensile stresses. The fiberglass has recrystallized and lost its strength. What information does Dr. Brown have concerning the use of fiberglass for injection tubing?

There has been a flurry of recent publicity concerning the relationship between deep disposal wells and earthquakes. This has been triggered by recent experiences out in Denver. There is no uniformity of opinion as to whether the deep disposal well has caused the increase in earthquakes. The Denver area normally has earthquake activity. Similar activity is not present in Pennsylvania. The deep disposal well outside of Denver cuts across a recognized fault zone. Some people believe that the injection of the wastes has lubricated this fault zone allowing the earthquakes to occur. None of the deep disposal wells in Pennsylvania cut through a fault zone. It is my opinion that there is no potential problem in Pennsylvania of earthquakes being caused by deep disposal wells.

GHE:lks

cc: Dr. Larson, H.S. Reg. VI, Meadville
Mr. Lazarchik
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File

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#1, 2, 3 wells.